

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony IN SUPPORT of HJ 1 to adopt the Long Island Sound Blue Plan.

Long Island Sound is the Northeast's largest estuary and includes some of the Earth's most productive natural habitats. The Sound is important to more than 20 million people who live within 50 miles and generates billions annually for local economies through tourism, fishing and other uses.

Without the Long Island Sound Blue Plan, the state has no authority to adequately plan for multiple future uses of the Sound, whether they be recreational, industrial, or developmental. The Blue Plan incorporates the contributions of nearly 2,000 individuals from conservation, business, recreation, government, Native American tribes and the public. It is imperative that the committee pass the Long Island Sound Blue Plan in order to proactively protect Long Island Sound while preserving traditional uses, maritime beauty, and environmental values.

Sharon Huttner

Branford CT